

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /124 W

----- 016650

R 291614Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7163

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD

USIA WASHDC

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

EO 11652: NA DECON 3/29/75

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: SADAT HITS BACK AT CRITICS

REF: BEIRUT 3597

1. EGYPTIAN PRES SADAT HIT BACK HARD AT SOVIET
AND OTHER CRITICISM (INCLUDING SYRIAN) IN LEBANESE
PRESS AND ELSEWHERE BY GIVING PRIVATE INTERVIEW WHICH
PUBLISHED IN MAR 29 PRO-CAIRO DAILY AL ANWAR. HIGHLIGHTS
OF INTERVIEW ARE ROLE OF USSR IN URGING EGYPT TO
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ACCEPT CEASE-FIRE, SADAT'S COMMUNICATIONS WITH SYRIAN

PRES ASSAD ON THIS SUBJECT, IMPROVEMENT IN USG
POLICY IN ME, AND EGYPTIAN DETERMINATION NOT RPT NOT
GO TO GENEVA UNLESS SYRIA, PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN ALSO ATTEND.

2. CONCERNING SOVIET ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT CEASEFIRE,
SADAT IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE TOLD BY SOV AMBASSADOR
AT 8:00 P.M. OCT 6 THAT SYRIA HAD REQUESTED USSR
TO ARRANGE CEASE-FIRE. SADAT REFUSED ORDER CEASEFIRE
AND CABLED ASSAD WHO DENIED ON OCT 7 HE HAD REQUESTED
IT. SOV AMB AGAIN TOLD SADAT SYRIA WANTED CEASE-FIRE
AND SADAT REPLIED VIOLENTLY THAT HE BELIEVED ASSAD.
ON OCT 13 UK AMB ASKED, ON BEHALF USG, IF IT WERE TRUE
EGYPT AND SYRIA HAD AGREED TO CEASE-FIRE. SADAT TOLD
UK AMB THIS UNTRUE AND THEN TOLD HIM HOW SOVS HAD STARTED
THIS STORY.

3. SADAT CONTINUES THAT BY OCT 19 "IT BECAME QUITE OBVIOUS
THAT AMERICA HAD THROWN ALL ITS WEIGHT BEHIND
ISRAEL BY SUPPLYING THE LATTER WITH MODERN WEAPONS WHICH
HAD NOT BEEN USED BY THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES THEMSELVES
BEFORE. SO AT 2:00 A.M. THAT DAY, PRES SADAT SENT
MESSAGE TO PRES ASSAD ASKING HIM TO ACCEPT CEASE-
FIRE BECAUSE 'DURING THE PAST TEN DAYS, I HAVE BEEN
FIGHTING AMERICA WITH ITS MOST UP-TO-DATE WEAPONS ON THE
EGYPTIAN FRONT. FRANKLY SPEAKING I CANNOT FIGHT AMERICA
OR BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DESTROYING OUR ARMED
FORCES ONCE AGAIN. THIS IS WHY I INFORMED THE SOVIET
UNION THAT I WOULD ACCEPT A CEASE-FIRE ON THE PRESENT
FRONTIERS ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: 1) U.S.-SOVIET
GUARANTEE FOR AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AS PROPOSED BY THE
SOVIET UNION; 2) HOLDING A PEACE CONFERENCE AT THE U.N.
AS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET UNION."

4. SADAT IS QUOTED AS SAYING U.S. POLICY HAS CHANGED
CONSIDERABLY AFTER THE OCT WAR AND HE DRAWS A SHARP
CONTRAST BETWEEN U.S. PRESENT POLICY AND THAT OF FORMER
PRES LYNDON JOHNSON. HE ADDED THAT AS A RESULT
OF HIS MEETINGS WITH DR KISSINGER, SADAT HAS OBTAINED
EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT "AMERICA IS NOW SUPPORTING PEACE
BASED ON JUSTICE AND HAS ADHERED TO THIS, THROUGH DR
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KISSINGER, UP TO THIS MOMENT."

5. SADAT REAFFIRMED EGYPT'S POSITION ON THE QUESTION
OF DISENGAGEMENT "BEING ONLY A MILITARY MOVE RELATED TO
THE CEASE-FIRE," AND THAT THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS ON
THE M.E. CRISIS WILL BE IN GENEVA. HE AGAIN EMPHASIZED
THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT GO TO GENEVA UNLESS "ALL THE PARTIES
CONCERNED" ATTEND THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS. HE SPECIFICALLY

MENTIONED SYRIA, THE PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN.
GODLEY

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